GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7952
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
NATIONAL CROP FORECASTING CENTRE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Crop Forecasting Centre (NCFC) has been set up foperiodical crop forecasting for major crops as also for coordination and assimilation of various methodologies and technical advancements relating to crop forecasting;

(b) if so, details of work done by the Centre during the last one year; and

(c) the States linked on computer network by the Centre for rapid date flow in the mechanism of crop prospects tracking?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): During the year, system of integrating diverse data sets and their analyses for real time monitoring the prospects of mandated crops has been strengthened. These analyses are vital input in working out the advance estimates of crop production released by the Government from time to time. The NCFC is the secretariat of the CropWeather Watch Group (CWWG) in the Ministry of Agriculture, which meets every week to discuss various factors that have influence on crop scenario. `The Weekly Status of Crop Prospects` supports the decision making process. `The Monthly Status of Agriculture`, initiated by NCFC, provides consolidated account of various developments concerning agriculture. NCFC also coordinates with Department of Space forintegrating the Remote Sensing technology in crop assessment. During the year, National Kharif Rice assessment using Remote Sensing for the year 1999 was done for the first time. Besides, the Remote Sensing based National Wheat Assessment for1999-2000 was also done.

For rapid data flow from the States on the computer network, the State nodalagencies have been identified and provision has been made in the budget of 2000- 2001, for providing computer facilities to these nodes.